

C.O.C.A. TIMES

COIN OPERATED COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATION

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Nov. 2011
\$14.95



Thanks to the following
people for opening
their home:

- Craig and Doreen Bierman
- Ken and Katherine Rubin
- Bill and Peggy Bain
- Ralph White
- Alan Bies and Steve Boehck
- Russell and Joann Beasley
- Jamey and Cynthia Fleck

Houston, Texas

Convention 2011

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Message from Our President

The long hot summer of 2011 is finally in the record books along with a great COCA convention in Houston during the month of September. The hard work and dedication of COCA members Craig and Doreen Bierman paid off with a memorable event that is chronicled in this issue. If you missed the 2011 convention, please do whatever you can to attend the 2012 convention in the great state of Minnesota. I promise you won't be disappointed.

The fall Chicagoland show is just around the corner as this issue of COCA Times hits your mailbox and we will be going to Jasper's again after the Friday evening dinner meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn. As a reminder, we will also be holding officer elections after dinner and we plan to expedite that process due to the event at Jasper's. Check in and a cash bar will begin at 5:00 p.m., with dinner and the COCA fall meeting at 5:30 p.m. The cost will be \$15 per person for all you can eat, including coffee and iced tea. Please RSVP before November 7th to Marsha Blau at (414) 350-7623 or at foxsnake@aol.com.

Although the club has made great progress since its formation, COCA now stands at a crossroads. Our club's success has largely been the result of a small cadre of people who brought life to it and operated it during the past 10 years or so. Unfortunately, we are not seeing a flow of new people into the club's operating process and that does not bode well for our future. Our club will ultimately be whatever our members decide to make it. I strongly encourage you to think about what you can do to support our club going forward. Otherwise, our momentum will falter and our hobbies, businesses and camaraderie will suffer as a result.

I am also advised that we are running very low on articles for this magazine. I look forward to receiving my COCA Times every spring, summer and fall and I am sure you do too. However, unless we build up our inventory of articles, tales of the hunt, etc., we may be forced to reduce the number of issues and only publish the magazine twice per year going forward. If you are like me and you hear all the gossip about finds and other coin op curiosities at the shows and conventions, you know those stories are out there. So please share them with all of us and don't worry about your writing skills. We will be happy to help you edit anything that you come up with.

The fall Chicagoland meeting will be my final as your president and I want to take this opportunity to thank the officers, directors and members of COCA who have dedicated so much time and effort to help me move the club forward over the past two years. I could not have accomplished anything without their consistent and wise counsel. It has truly been a wonderful and fulfilling experience.

Happy hunting to everyone and I look forward to seeing you in Chicago.

Erick Johnson
COCA President
602.370.6775
erickjohnson@cox.net



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**DEADLINE FOR
NEXT ISSUE:
January 8, 2012**

HOUSTON TEXAS

September, 2011



*"We found that everything
is bigger in Texas, especially
hospitality and friendship."*

written by Erick Johnson

They say everything is bigger in Texas and COCA members attending the 2011 convention in Houston this past September found that to be true as they toured huge collections, enjoyed lots of "10 gallon" Houston hospitality and consumed some of the biggest and best Texas barbeque meals one could ever ask for. Our hats are off to COCA 2011 Convention Chairman Craig Bierman and his wonderful wife Doreen for organizing another memorable event for over 80 of our members.

The Houston convention experience started on Thursday afternoon with an old fashioned Texas barbeque at the country home of **Ken and Katherine Rubin**. There wasn't any coin op to enjoy down on the farm, but Katherine's eclectic collection of animals (including turkeys, chickens, goats, sheep and a beautiful young deer named Bambi) kept everyone amazed and amused until darkness fell.

Friday morning arrived quickly and, after a wonderful free breakfast provided by the Hilton Houston

Westchase, we embarked on our coin op adventure with a visit to the beautiful home of **Bill and Peggy Bain**. The Bain collection was one of the largest and best organized combination of coin op, country store, drug store, advertising and automobile collectibles that most of us had ever seen. One had to look closely and carefully to take in the huge array of items and the Bains made the experience even better by providing wonderful refreshments, including ice cold Dr. Pepper bottled by the oldest Dr. Pepper bottling company in the world - and the last one to still use pure cane sugar in their recipe.

Following our return to the Hilton Friday afternoon, COCA officials began organizing the auction for the Friday evening dinner, which kicked off at 6:30 p.m. After a plentiful buffet and dessert spread, everyone took out their wallets and got down to business. The auction proved to be fun for all, with a large number of items available and spirited bidding energized by auctioneer **Jeff Scott and his very helpful wife, Sheila**.

Saturday morning, we awoke to what looked like rain clouds – a welcome sight to all, considering the drought conditions that have affected a large part of Texas for the past several months. Our first stop was to a nondescript industrial warehouse on the northwest outskirts of Houston. As we drove up, we weren't sure what to expect when we got inside. But once the door opened, we found ourselves in a virtual wonderland of neon, flashing lights and porcelain as we stared at the largest collection of antique and vintage automobile dealership signs and other advertising that any of us had ever experienced. The signs belonged to our host, **Ralph White**, owner of Ralph White Merchandising, Inc. Ralph's dedication to his collection was clearly demonstrated as we looked at one of the tallest neon signs we have ever seen indoors – so tall that Ralph had to build an extension onto the warehouse roof to make room for it.

Lunch on Saturday was another round of fabulous Texas barbeque at Goode Company restaurant. While we were enjoying our meal, the rain finally arrived. You could hear the local residents cheer as the clouds opened and it began to rain in sheets. We were very happy to see the wonderful residents of Texas get the rain they have waited so long for.

Rain doesn't affect our interest in coin op, so after lunch we immediately left for the home of **Craig and Doreen Bierman** to view their collection. It is difficult to describe their home and collection in a short article like this. Suffice it to say, it was a mixture of coin op, advertising, cars, Korean war helicopters, games, real Super Bowl rings and wax figures – all coordinated quite well by the very talented Biermans.

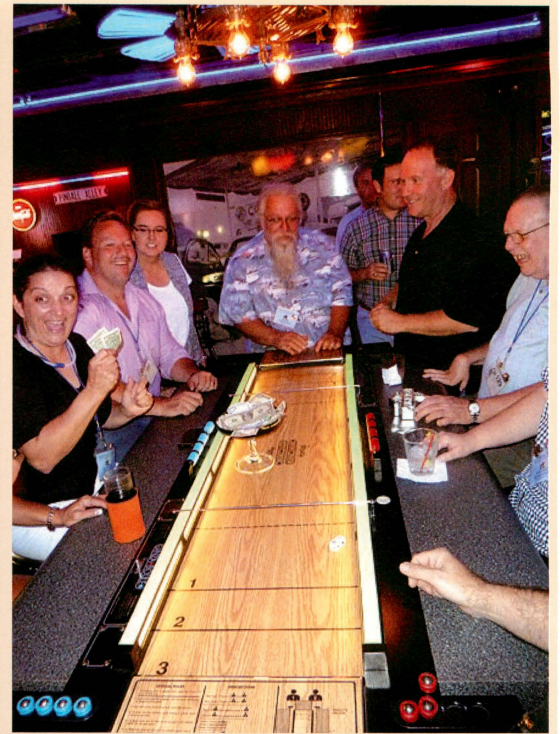
After a short stay at the Bierman residence, we left for a visit to the incredible Victorian mansion and music collection of **Alan Bies and Steve Boehck**. I have been in quite a few antique houses in my time, but this mansion literally felt like walking into a time machine from 1890. The décor was right on point and the overall condition was immaculate. It didn't hurt that the first thing we saw coming in the front door was a beautiful original Madam Zita fortune telling machine from 1903. After listening to several of Alan and Steve's antique machines, we departed for the hotel and a little rest before our dinner and party Saturday night.

Fogo De Chao restaurant was the location of our Saturday dinner, which consisted of a fantastic Brazilian style meal that we would all need for the next event. Then it was on to Craig and Doreen Bierman's home again to see it "in action". We arrived to find literally everything in the home going full blast – all the displays, the antique fans, machines, bar, games... you name it and it was working. Even the life size display of Marilyn Monroe from the movie "Seven Year Itch" had its skirt blowing up. Midway through the evening, the crowd was amazed by a wonderful showman – **Dennis Rogers – Pound for Pound**, The World's Strongest Man. After an hour or so of bending diameter nails, rolling up frying pans small enough to fit through a wristwatch and driving nails barehanded through more frying pans and wood blocks, the party really got rolling in the disco room and lasted into the wee hours with everyone having a great time.

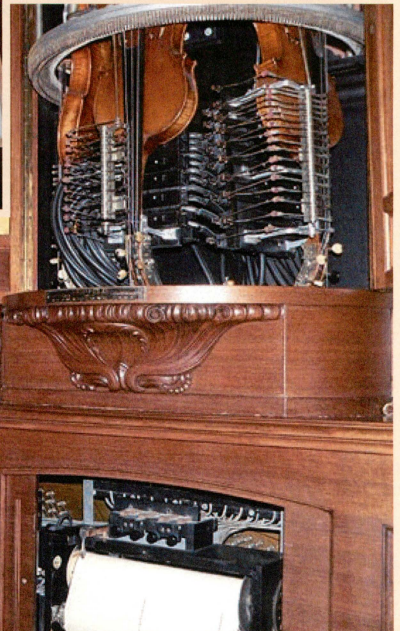
Our schedule for Sunday morning began with a 10:00 a.m. visit to the home of **Russell and Joann Beasley**. The Beasleys live in a beautifully remodeled home that has a dedicated game room over the garage. The room incorporates some of the most beautifully restored coin operated machines that I have ever seen. A large part of the display flanks both sides of a large flat screen television, giving the viewer the option of looking at the collection while they watch TV – a well thought out arrangement.

The final stop on the Sunday convention tour was the residence of **Jamey and Cynthia Fleck**. The Flecks work from home and are both collectors with an excellent taste for the unique and unusual. Jamey's coin op collection contains fabulous original, unrestored machines and related advertising. It occupies a dedicated display room upstairs, a TV room downstairs and his home office, while Cynthia is still working on plans to display her very large collection of antique and unusual ladies compacts.

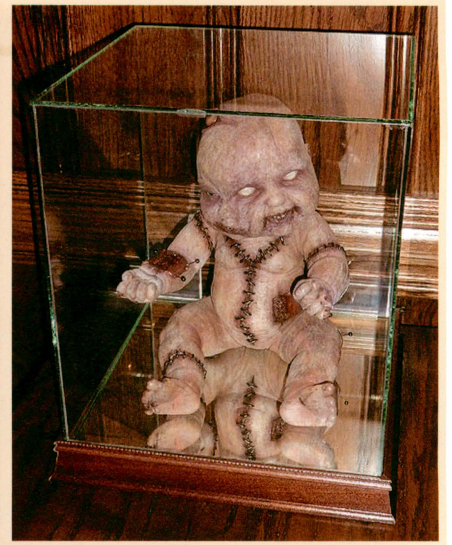
This will be my final convention as COCA president and I want to personally thank everyone who made this one of the best ever for our club. We found that everything is bigger in Texas – especially hospitality and friendship.













Victuallers' Shooting Range

by John Peterson

Before we shove off on today's story, first, a swing by the editor's desk. Daniel Webster defines "victualler" as:

- 1) the keeper of a restaurant or tavern;*
- 2) one that provisions an army, a navy, or a ship with food;*
- 3) an army or navy provisions ship.*

With that under our belts, cast off the lines; we're underway with today's tale.



Photo F

I remain in semi-constant amazement at the number of British coin-operated games that have found their way across the Atlantic to America. I have heard various explanations as to why: the antique container craze of the 60's where shipping vessels were stuffed with flotsam-jetsam from England for an ever gullible American public and their insatiable appetite for anything British; or the twin demon scavengers of British arcade who swept through fairs and seaside resorts, grabbing all discarded games for foreign disbursement. I like to think that there was a much simpler force at play. I believe that the Karma Force Commander (KFC), ruler of the coin-op universe, knew in his infinite wisdom that one day, in the distant future, in a land far, far away (the cold and windy state of Minnesota in the United States of America,) there would be an enterprising lad who would grow up to love and cherish all these orphans from a long forgotten period of British history; the time when English men, women and children frolicked and played in their innocent youth with the magical games of chance. You think not? What else explains my marvelous success at cornering some of the best games from Britain's high water era of coin-op history? Still think I'm kidding? Read on, my friends.

The games I favor within my own collection are those by the manufacturer Handan-Ni. I own three games by them: Domino Model 4, Multi-ball, and Bomb Dropper. All three share several common traits. They are close to the turn of the century, all three are ball drop games and they all are visually stunning. It is with great sorrow that I had to announce to the "hand-and-eye" group: "Move over, boys; there is a new kid on your block!"

I have advocated tirelessly for expanding your knowledge first before looking to expand your collection. Part of the challenge with collecting British games is the lack of written literature on the subject. There is one decent book on the field, "Automatic Pleasures," by Nic Costa. This pitiful state of credible information impedes both collectors and researchers from advancing their knowledge of the rich history of British coin games and those English inventors who so clearly displayed their ingenuity with early design and development. In spite of this impediment, the coin-op stars do align upon occasion to illuminate a jewel from the past.

The year was 1896 and the company, Haydon & Urry, was an early stand-out in British coin-op history. Their signature machine, "Tivoli," is still heralded as one of the earliest commercial successes of the



Photo A



Photo B

description. This piece of information was critical in two respects: 1) it dated the machine as being no later than 1900, and 2) it had a fairly detailed picture of the front door to the game. I then cross-referenced Haydon & Urry in "Arcades and Slot Machines" by Paul Braithwaite. I learned Haydon & Urry moved from their location on Gray's Road to Islington in 1896. If you look closely at the card in Photo B, you will see the address is "34, Gray's Inn Road, W.C." This information helped confirm the date of manufacture as sometime prior to 1896.

infant industry. As I was trolling through Ebay-US, I ran across an auction entitled: "Antique English 'Business Stimulator' Tavern Game." Excuse me? Looking at the picture, Photo A, it was clearly a barrels coin-flip game missing the front door. There were copious pictures within the

offering, including a close-up of one of the cards that came with the machine, Photo B. Armed with these two pieces of information - the photos and the knowledge that this was Haydon & Urry - I turned to Mr. Costa and his Auto-Pleasures for more information. To my pleasant surprise, on page 43, he had reproduced an advertisement from a commercial flyer in 1900 that had a picture of this very machine, titled "The Barrel Machine," Photo C together with a word

Besides being a rare game from turn of the century England, this specific machine was unusual for



Photo C

three distinctive items. First, it retained the way-cool Egyptian cast iron sphinx on top, Photo D. Second, it had the original interior instruction card, Photo E, enumerating the areas of British patent application to include "the Australian colonies, Etc." Finally, it

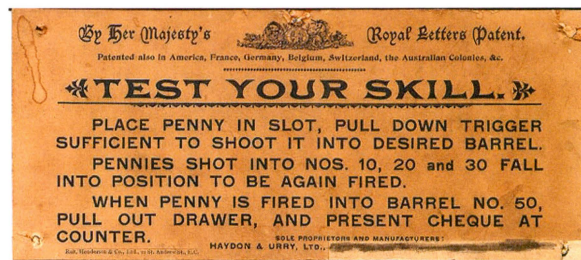


Photo D

had 45 original aforementioned cards that could be exchanged "at the counter for a 2D cigar." (For my American colleagues, 2D means 2 pennies.) To find paper ephemera a century later, and in such good condition and quantity, is truly rare.

Once again, KFC had smiled upon me. The rest was up to me; I had to win the auction. It should come as

no surprise that I did just that! My success was assisted by the poor word description of the game. My competition ended up consisting of other Yanks, none of whom knew what this piece really was. I have no idea where my British brethren were that day but I'm thankful they weren't on Ebay.

After taking custody of the game, I had a new door constructed using the picture from Nic's book as the example. You may judge for yourself, Photo F, as to the success of my efforts. Personally, I am very pleased with the results. I also created



Photo E

the door card using both the Costa picture and one from a similar machine sold by Paul Haskell when he and Nic sold the Costa-Haskell Collection. I am pleased with the card as well.

The game is simple to play. The player deposits a 1D penny in the slot at top right. The coin drops down to rest against the spring lever inside the machine, bottom right. The player pushes down and releases the lever, propelling the coin upward and over the barrels. If the coin falls into one of the first three barrels, the coin rolls back to the launch position. If the coin falls into the last barrel on the left, it drops down to release the card-pull knob. The player receives the stock card redeemable for a cigar, or whatever else may be provided whilst the eye of authority is turned elsewhere. Most of the coins fly over all barrels and fall into the case for later retrieval by the operator. It is a fun game to play, particularly with the weakly launched coins returning for another try. You can easily get more than one "flip" for your penny!

If there is a consistent key to my collecting success, it is "network and knowledge." My drive to learn more about these fascinating games has led me to other collectors who share my passion. This network of collector friends has greatly added to my knowledge of the games and their history. It is mainly because of their generosity that I write these articles to share what I have learned with you. Your obligation is to pass along your knowledge to others. This sharing and expanding of the field of knowledge is the engine that keeps this hobby viable. Do your part and KFC will smile upon you, too. And I ain't talkin' no penny-flippin' barrel-o'-chicken, neither! Trust me on this one.

THE END.

POST SCRIPT:

As always, if you wish to talk about British coin-op, I can be reached at: jp4@charter.net or 952 891-2312.



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CHIP GOLF AND MEMORIES OF THE SMITH AUCTION

By Bill Howard

In many ways Woodstock set the tone of a generation. Simply, there were those that were there, and there was everyone else. Those that attended and survived that mega social event accumulated

memories that will no doubt stay with them throughout their lives.

For coin machine collectors, the Dr. Smith Auction at Sotheby's in New York City proved to be their Woodstock. I was privileged to attend and remember it as if it were yesterday. The preview was September 27, 1994, and the auction itself took place for the following three days. A buzz was in the air and all of us were excited. Even Godfather Gorski was excited! My partner "B.P." was so excited after attending that he wore himself out and overslept, causing him to miss his flight home. I had purchased a catalogue and had earmarked three sports skill games as possibilities to take home with the limited funds I had brought. I was carrying a great deal of money to bid for friends who could not attend, which scared me to death as I wandered the Big Apple. In my book, Every Picture Tells a Story, I describe on various pages some of the bizarre experiences I encountered, and I won't repeat them here. My good fortune beyond being able to just attend and share time with friends blossomed because I was able to snag each of these targeted possibilities plus make enough profit on a fourth machine that I purchased for resale to pay for all the expenses of my trip. One of the machines I snagged was my Chip Golf, the subject of this article and the only example known to exist today.

Chip Golf is featured on page 159 of my book, where I describe my appreciation for the generosity of friend Mel Getlin, who graciously deferred so that I could acquire it. I had spotted Chip Golf in the catalogue, #559, and considered it a "sleeper" because it was not pictured and was appraised low. The dread of then looking down the wrong

end of Mel's gun barrel and subsequent euphoria I felt after I realized he was stepping aside is a mood swing even the mentally challenged would find hard to endure. As is true in purchasing other machines that I have discussed in other articles, the fact that I had the only known ad for this machine proved most helpful.

According to the ad, it was made by the R. and S. Company of New York City. This ad appeared in the November, 1929, issue of Automatic Age on page 56. Pictured there is Alec Smith, the "golf professional of Westchester Biltmore Country Club," the same golf club pictured on the playfield of the Chester Pollard Jr. golf game. Alec claims to get a "big thrill out of Chip Golf."

This machine came in a part wood, part metal cabinet, with directions cast into the metal in front and a unique handle marquee for easy transport. It stood 21 inches high, 10 inches wide and 18 inches deep.

The game starts with the insertion of a penny and the pull forward of the lever on the right side of the machine that releases the golf ball and sets three green pins atop the bunker. The golf ball is then stroked by a striker on the lower front of the machine. If the ball lands in one of the three pin holes, the flag falls to record the score and the ball is returned for another shot at the two remaining holes. The player can play forever, as the golf ball is returned until all three holes are hit and the flag falls, or the ball lands in the bunker, in which event the ball is not returned and the game is over. The next penny and pull of the lever releases the ball and resets the flags. Although the ad makes no mention of a prize and there could be no cash box system to register hole hits, I believe a prize or payoff had to be given if all three holes are made and the pins fall before the ball is lost in the bunker. One pin is hard, two pins is almost impossible, and three pins registered must have been cause for serious drinking. As you can imagine, the start of the Depression dealt this machine the same cruel blow felt by so many other machines, and probably caused its quick demise, notwithstanding the joy in its play. This only known example is also pictured in Dick Bueschel's Guide to Vintage Trade Stimulators & Counter Games on page 169.

THREE CHEERS TO MEL!





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STEREO Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011 HITS

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Admission: \$7.00

STEREO Friday, Nov. 11, 2011 HITS

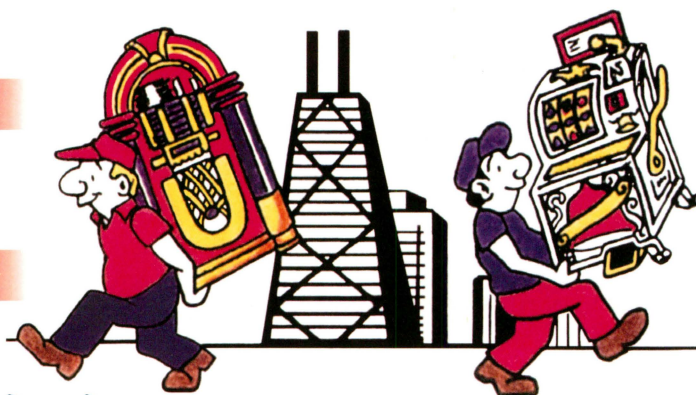
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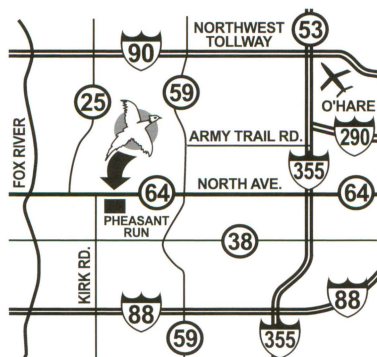


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November 11th - November 11th - November 11th

C.O.C.A. 2011 Fall Meeting

**Dinner/ Election of Officers
COCA Hall O' Fame Award and....**

**Tour of
The Jasper Sanfilippo Foundation**

**HILTON GARDEN INN, ST. CHARLES, IL
Friday, November 11, 2011**

**5: 00 CHECK-IN AND CASH BAR/
5:30 DINNER/Meeting/ Elections Leave Hilton
at 6:30 Arrive No Earlier than 7:00 (self-drive)**

**Chicken with Mushrooms in a White Wine Sauce,
Mashed Potatoes, Rolls Salad Bar,
Assorted Vegetables,
Dessert, Ice-Tea and Coffee**

Tour of Jasper's Estate 7pm-10:30pm

The Journey from Household Gadgets to Rare Vendors



Roger Smith

The story of the Freeport Vendors

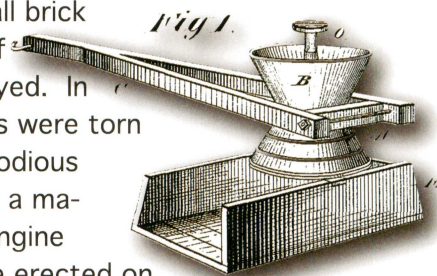
Any connection between everyday items such as lemon squeezers, corkscrews and coffee grinders, and some of the rarest, most ornate and most sought after vendors that still exist would seem unlikely at best. The truth is, they are all interrelated through a prolific inventor and business man, and the enigmatic Freeport Novelty Company. Along the way are such improbable players as windmills and one of the most successful toy manufacturers of the early part of the twentieth century. Tying it all together is Albert Baumgarten - the inventor and proprietor of the Freeport Novelty Company.

Humble beginnings

Albert Baumgarten was born in Freeport, Illinois, May 23, 1851. The son of Charles and Mary Baumgarten, who had immigrated from Coblenz, Germany. Albert grew up in Freeport attending the Freeport schools and then went on to the Christian Brothers' College in St. Louis. After college, he went in to the commission sales business in San Antonio. This lasted only two years before he made the arduous trip across the Rockies to California, where he remained only a short time before returning East where he went into business in New York. After two years, he next joined the government hydrographic corps (which eventually became a part of the Army Corps of Engineers) and was part of a survey of the Mississippi River from St. Louis to New Orleans. Tired of this, his next venture was for the firm of Stanley & Curtin in Abercrombie, North Dakota, before moving, this time to Faribault, Minnesota, where he was again in business for two years. His peripatetic life finally brought him back home to Freeport and a new business (possibly as a solon keeper) on Chicago Street. This brought him square into the path of fate, a fiancée (Miss Johannah Prieshoff, daughter of Albert Prieshoff, a farmer near Freeport) and finally, a successful and stable business future.

Novelty Iron Works

In 1868, the Novelty Iron Works was founded in Freeport by brothers Edward H. and Charles Morgan, with financing from J. B. Hazen. They conducted business in two small buildings on the corner of Chicago and Jackson streets. Here they continued to do business for nearly twenty years. The company first occupied two small brick buildings and a total of ten hands were employed. In 1874, the old buildings were torn down and more commodious quarters, consisting of a machine shop, foundry, engine room, and offices were erected on the same site, at a cost of about \$25,000 (the equivalent of over \$475,000 today). In 1877, J. P. Easter became a partner in the concern, retiring in about a year. But during his stay, the company began the manufacture of plows on a large scale along with pumps, windmills, iron pavements, store fronts, and a variety of castings. The Novelty Iron Works went out of business in 1885, and the Arcade Manufacturing Company was immediately organized with E. H. and Charles Morgan and Albert Baumgarten as the original promoters.

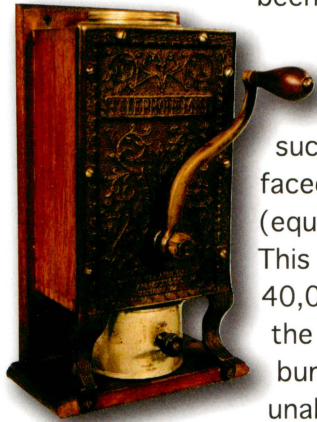


1881 Morgan Brothers feed mill patent

The Arcade Manufacturing Company

The first products of the Arcade factory were a cork extractor and a screen door hinge, but within two years they began assembling box type coffee mills and other small cast iron machinery for home use. The buildings of the Novelty Iron Works were used for a brief time only. They quickly became too crowded, and a move was soon made to a new factory erected especially for the purpose in East Freeport. From there the company moved, in September 1891, to another site, and took possession of a building which had been recently vacated by the Emory and Williams Canning Company. This building was fitted up with suitable machinery, and a prosperous business start had just been made, when, on July 24, 1892, the factories were burned to the ground and all the new equipment lost. It was suspected at the time that the plant had been fired by an incendiary (arson). However that might have

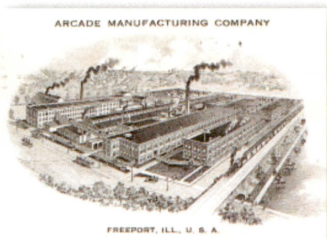
been, the entire factory with all its appurtenances was a total loss, and the Arcade Manufacturing Company, which had enjoyed such pleasant prospects, gloomily faced a deficit of over \$20,000 (equivalent to \$381,000 today). This was bad enough, but about 40,000 coffee mills, finished and in the process of manufacture, were burned, and the new company was unable to fill its first orders.



1893 Arcade Manufacturing Co.
coffee mill

The fire was a severe blow, and any but the most zealous of men would have been profoundly discouraged. Not so the new Arcade Manufacturing Company. Hardly were the ashes of the fire cold when negotiations were under way for the purchase of a new factory site in East Freeport. A large square of land, formerly belonging to the Keller-Wittbecker farm was bought, and part of it was divided up into lots. The newly platted section of East Freeport was

known as the Arcade Addition, and on part of the land, the company erected its new offices and foundries. In February, 1893, the new factory had been completed, and the Arcade



Manufacturing Company was ready to begin over. This time success crowned their efforts. The main building was a large brick structure, 200' x 40', while the foundry was 100' x 70'. Besides the two larger factories, there were a number of smaller buildings occupied by foundries, machine shops, drying houses, warehouses, general offices, etc. The plant was up-to-date in every respect, employing a large force of men, and turning out a variety of products. Besides the dozens of coffee mills of different designs, the Arcade plant produced screen door hinges, stove pipe dampers, lid lifters, cork extractors, corkscrews, and numerous small notions and novelties. In 1893, L. L. Munn became a partner in the Arcade Manufacturing firm. In December of that year, he invested heavily in the company, and thenceforth, became the principal stockholder. For many years he filled the office of president, and, upon his death, his interest in the concern was taken up by his son, L. L. Munn, Jr.

A Use for Scrap

To help use up metal scraps from the manufacture of larger items such as plows and windmills, Arcade Manufacturing Co. started producing their first line of toys, which were toy coffee grinders. In 1888, they added more toys and soon the toys became the principal products of the company. By the early 1900s, the company was doing so well, they issued their own 50-page catalogue of toys. By 1939, the Arcade line of toys swelled to over three hundred different items.

The Yellow Cab, Arcade's first wheel toy, was made in 1921, and cost \$1.50 retail. The 1920s were the great years for Arcade wheel toys. Arcade toys came to gross as much as \$1,000,000 in one year, as much as all other Arcade products combined. Molding machinery was designed and marketed to keep up with the output. Doll house furniture sets were



added during the 1920s and sold for \$10. Most wheel toys were marked "Arcade," the label cast as part of the toy on the underside. (Sometimes de-

cals were used.) "They look real" became the official company motto. At its peak, Arcade put out 300 different items hiring 700 to 800 people in its 18 departments.

By 1935, Arcade had a line of inexpensive home-shop machines that used the "Arcade," "Arcade Craft Tools," and "Craftmaster" names. In 1941, Arcade introduced the Homecraft line of home woodworking machinery to supplement (and supplant) the previous offerings. The Homecraft line was bought by Rockwell Manufacturing Co., in 1946. In 1952, Rockwell moved the manufacturing from Freeport, IL to Tupelo, MS. Rockwell's woodworking machinery line now belongs to Delta Manufacturing Company.

The Start of Freeport Novelty Co.

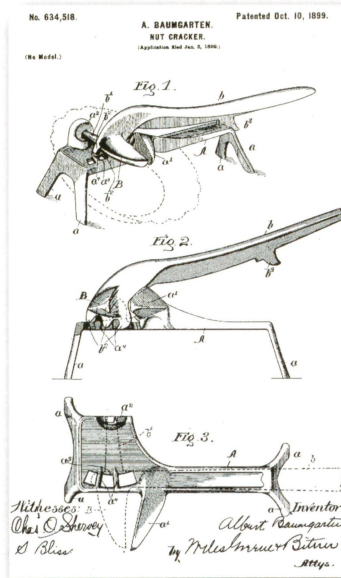
We know that Albert Baumgarten was integral to the Arcade Manufacturing Company from its beginning, not only as a founding partner, but as an inventor as well. His first patent with the new company was issued to the Morgan brothers in 1886, for a method of closing boxes. He was also included in several coffee mill patents by the brothers, a scraper patent in 1893, and spring hinge patent granted in 1894, awarded to Michael Redlinger and assigned to the three Arcade partners. Albert's first patent in his own name (1899) was for a nut cracker. He went on to invent a towel holder, several lemon squeezers, a number of corkscrews and a way of capping bottles. In all, Albert received a total of 18 design or mechanical patents in his own name.

Albert Baumgarten was listed as Vice-president of the Arcade Manufacturing Company in city listings from 1896 to 1901, but in 1900, he became listed as proprietor and manager of the newly listed Freeport Novelty Company, located at 54 & 56 Liberty Avenue. (He also served a one-year term as Mayor of Freeport

from 1899 to 1900 when the city had a population of 13,258.)

The Freeport Novelty Company received its official charter July 26th, 1901 under Albert Baumgarten, along with Louis and Edward Strohacker. These three comprised the original holders of \$100,000 in capital stock in the company, 75% of which belonged to Albert. At a stockholder's meeting held August 15th of that year, these three, along with Fred Yerlach and Jacob Schnur, were made the Directors of the company. This cleared the way for the State to declare them an official company on August 21, 1901. By 1902, Baumgarten was no longer associated with Arcade and became the President of the new Freeport Novelty Co., which had moved to Oak Place and advertised itself as "Manufacturer of hardware specialties." In 1902, Millie Baumgarten became treasurer of the new company, a title she would hold to 1907. Millie was the oldest daughter of Albert and lived with the family on Clark Avenue. The company moved again in 1903 (Hooker Ave.) and in 1905 (Hancock Ave). Patents from this period include ones for elastic flooring, another lemon squeezer, an umbrella clasp and a bottle holder. Albert's last patent, was for yet another corkscrew. This was submitted in 1903, but not granted until after his death in 1907 or early 1908.

In 1907, fillings with the state indicated the primary function of the company had changed from that of a general manufacturing business to "manufacturers of peanut and gum vendors." Millie assumed the role of both President and Treasurer of the company in 1908 and the Strohacker brothers broke away to found the Structo Manufacturing (Toy) company, the originators of the erector set, which was eventually sold to A.C. Gilbert Co. In early 1909, Johanna took control of the Presidency, with another daughter, Rose, as treasurer. The company disappeared from the records by 1910. The factory ceased to do business, and Millie (who owned them) sold the buildings to the Freeport Manure Spreader Company. In July 1918, the Secretary of State filed to have the charter of the company cancelled and the court dissolved the corporation September 27, 1926. Johanna, Albert's wife, died in 1931 in Oregon State at a daughter's home.



Inventor:
Albert Baumgarten

The Freeport Vendors

The only vending patent granted to Albert Baumgarten was submitted in 1901 and granted July 22, 1902. Despite this lack of invention in the area of vending, the Freeport Novelty Co. is credited with producing several ornate vendors: The Freeport Peanut Vendor, Freeport Dragons, Freeport Twins, Nut & Candy Vender, Soda Mint Gum, Freeport Gum Vendor, and Goo Goo Gum vendors. It is noteworthy that the vending patent granted to Albert bears a great deal of similarity to the design and patent of the Berger vendor made

contemporaneously by the identically short lived Berger Manufacturing Co. of Chicago Ridge, Illinois. (See "Who want a Berger? The history of the Paul E. Berger Manufacturing Company." *C.O.C.A. Times* 7(1):12-16, 2006.)

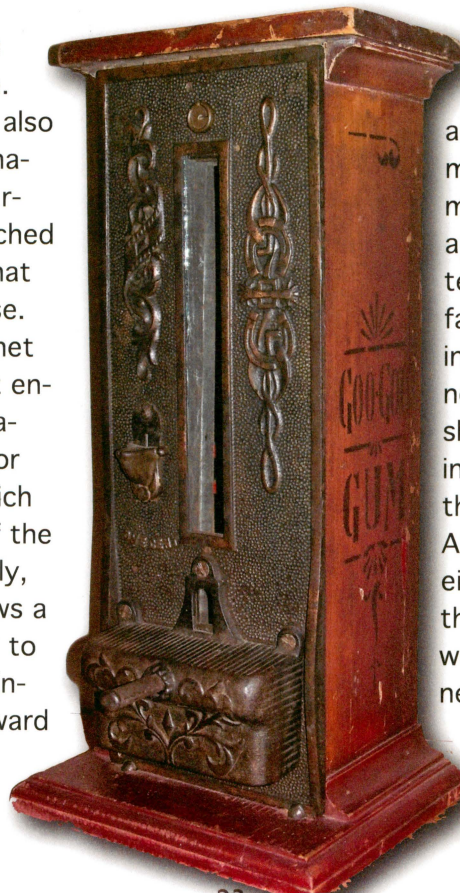
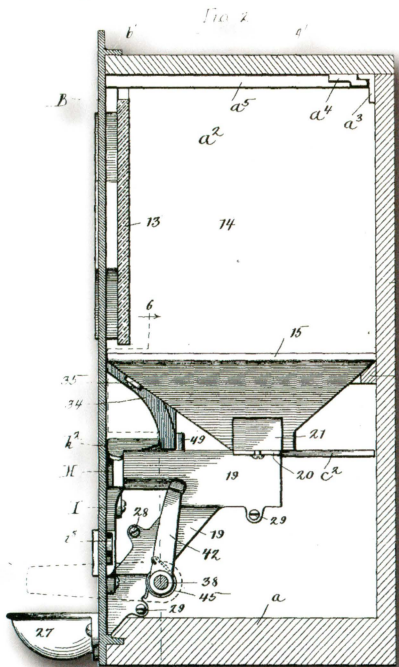
Many of the existing machines show that Freeport manufactured machines for others, including Mills to distribute. Goo-Goo and Standard Manufacturing also distributed versions of the Freeport machines. All the machines that have survived have ornate front castings attached to wooden (generally oak) cabinets that house the mechanism and merchandise. The smaller machines have small cabinet locks at the top with locking pins that engage the cabinet at the base. The machines open outward and downward for refilling and recovery of the coins, which generally fall loosely to the bottom of the case or a tin money box. (Interestingly, the original patent describes and shows a hinged front casting that would swing to the side for access. This design also included a top lid that could be slid forward and lifted up and off when the front was opened. This was to allow easy refilling of the machine's large supply

hopper.) The ornate design of these vendors reflect both the time that they were made and the decorative heritage that was part of the Arcade line of coffee mills.

To discourage the use of slugs, many of the Freeport vendors have witness windows that allow the operator, and others, to see the last coin used. The original designs submitted by Albert indicated that this display window could be made to show from 1-3 coins depending on only the width of the window and the placement of a small lip that kept the coins from exiting the display space. No special mechanism was required for this display to work, since each coin deposited would displace the previous one as it exited the vending mechanism.

It is interesting that only the large

Freeport vendors (Dragons, Twins and peanut vendors) use the side mounted handle to activate the mechanism, as shown in the patent application. All the others use a center mounted push rod. Given Albert's familiarity with the patent process, it is interesting that these versions were never patented, though the Goo-Goo shown indicates "Pat. Appd for" on the inside of the case. Could it be that they were produced around the time of Albert's death and that the company either lacked the will to pursue it or that any applications that were filed were withdrawn? We will probably never know. We can only marvel that from plows, windmills and coffee grinders came such amazing examples of vending art.



PIONEER SCALE

c1930

Photo 2

by Jim & Merlyn Collings

This handsome 5 foot tall scale with a 10-inch mirrored trip-tych marquee is possibly a Prototype (photo 1). One was seen 20 years ago at the Chicagoland Show. This unusual "Pioneer" scale has a nice Art-Deco look with lots of sleek lines. The rectangular column is made of tin or sheet metal. A portion of the mirrored column has a decorative glass cut-out showing the counter-weight and no spring mechanism (photo 2). Some of the "Pioneer" scales have a money-back feature. In (photo 3) the "FREE IF YOU GUESS YOUR WEIGHT" is on the three paneled white porcelain mirrored marquee. Directions on the head read: "1st SET INDICATOR AT THE FIGURE YOU THINK YOU WEIGH, 2nd STAND STILL THEN DROP COIN, IF YOU GUESS CORRECTLY YOUR COIN WILL RETURN" The coin return is on the right-hand side of the column.

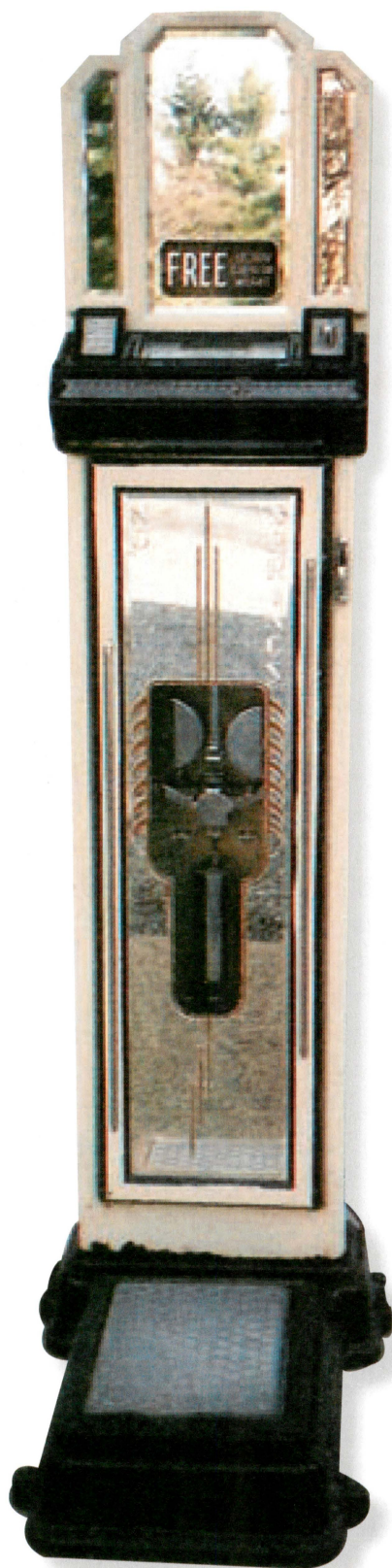


Photo 1



Photo 3

Some of the "Pioneer" scales had a indicator knob on the front of the scale, which allowed the patrons to guess their weight (photo 4). A button on top of the scale head was used to engage the coin. This scale had the money-back feature which was powered by batteries to operate the coin return. Some early money-back Watling scales also had a large battery to power the "free" weight mechanism.

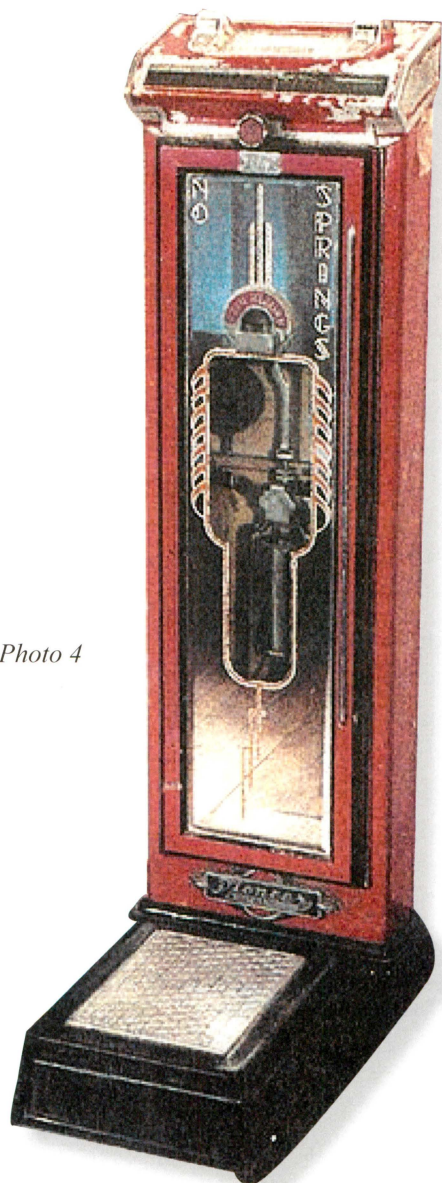


Photo 4

We would like to thank Jeff Storck and Bill & Jan Berning for their invaluable input.

HAPPY SCALE COLLECTING!



Photo 5

The above scales are other "Pioneer" models made by Bill Watling and distributed by Tom Watling, known as the "Old Man". The scales were made by the PIONEER SPRINGLESS SCALE CO. located in Chicago. Shown in (photo 5) are other variant models only 50 inches in height. Two of the models have a small three paneled aluminum mirrored marquee. They have no free weight indicator strip but instead have a metal strip saying "HOW MUCH DO YOU WEIGH?" They all have black porcelain footplates.

The "Pioneer" scale was used for a very short period of time making it somewhat scarce. The scale is very similar to the Watling "Tom Thumb" scale which is more common.

The Tale of the Green Lantern

by Nick Carini

In June of 2011 my mom noticed a listing for a 1 cent gumball machine at a household auction in central Wisconsin. Dad (John Carini) made the call on it, and from the auctioneer's description (aluminum with a round glass globe and a nipple on the top cap) he thought it was a Columbus and left a \$75 bid. He asked for a photo to be emailed to us, but soon forgot about it. When I came home from work and checked email, I was excited to see that the auctioneer had sent us a photo of a Langley gumball vendor (*see photo*). Dad said it would be best to drive up to the auction, since he was pretty certain the auctioneer was just fishing for a value and didn't really record his bid (he never asked for a credit card to secure the bid). Since my father was scheduled to work the day of the auction, my mother (Sandy) and I drove up.

We arrived at the auction and the attendance was fairly light - about 75 people. I was surprised to see the machine sitting in the grass with other household items, but subsequently disappointed when I saw that the globe (probably not original) was cracked. But all-in-all, still a really good find. We scoped out the competition, wondering if any of them knew. I debated whether I should ask to have the machine brought up early, but decided to wait it out.

There were a number of quality household appliances. I got an almost new brand name wall air filter unit for \$6 (they sell for over \$400 in the stores). My mother also made a purchase (*see photo*) of a taxidermy raccoon (\$9) for her office Christmas party's white elephant gift exchange. We waited almost 2 hours for the auctioneer to get to the area of the machine. The sun was beaming down pretty hard and people were hot and uncomfortable. Finally the machine was about to come up for bid. The ring man picked up the machine and the auctioneer shouted out "Up for bid is a Vintage Green Lantern."

The ring man corrected him, letting him know it was an old gumball machine.


Eager to win the machine and leave, I raised my bid card on the opening bid. The auctioneer turned his head sideways, and with a baffled look asked me "are you bidding (the opening bid)?" I shook my head yes. If we weren't already labeled "crazy" after my mother's bid on the raccoon, we certainly were now. The auctioneer proceeded to call for the next bid, but no one bid against me. Happy with my purchase we scooped up the machine, paid and left. All-in-all a wonderful addition to my dad's collection. Machines seem to be getting harder and harder to find, and for us it's truly a family passion. Keep hunting, there are still many amazing machines out there to be found!



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Champion Speed Tester

By Bill Howard

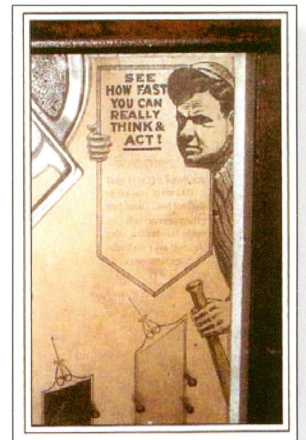
The only known example of the Champion Speed Tester is featured on page 145 of *Every Picture Tells a Story* and shown below. It is one of my favorite baseball machines because of its extraordinary graphics and hand-eye coordination skill play. The deposit of one cent releases a colored ball from the top that the player tries to maneuver into the matching colored pocket as the ball falls. This is not easy, but neither is hitting a baseball or avoiding a left hook. The beautifully cast marquee of two boxers and the extraordinarily detailed picture of the Babe make the graphics simply wonderful. I have never seen a better pictorial view of the face of Babe Ruth. The identity of the figure on the left upper corner of the paper is a mystery to me, although I suspect it represents an accomplished pugilistic contemporary of Ruth. I would appreciate hearing from anyone with an idea of who he may be.

The manufacturer of this 1930 counter top machine is unknown, although B. Madorsky of Brooklyn, New York, is a likely suspect according to historian Dick Bueschel, who featured my machine on page 171 of this *Guide to Vintage Trade Stimulators & Counter Games*, where he describes it as a "killer."

The machine cabinet is stained with a dark wood finish with more terrific aluminum casting on the bottom in the form of two hands on the lower corners firmly holding a stick. This example is all original except for a reconstructed tray on the inside that holds the gumballs in place. Entry to the machine comes from the back, which is broken and warped. I found no evidence that the machine came with a cash box, as was also true of the Madorski Drop Coin Football, shown on page 124 of my book. In any event, I suspect the operator offered some prize if the hand-eye skill of the player was able to match a hanging gumball with the corresponding colored pocket.

I acquired this machine from dealer Mike Murphy of Aurora, Illinois, at a Chicagoland show early on in my collecting, and this led to a friendship resulting in my being able to buy other great machines from Mike and enjoy his company when I see him at Chicagoland.

The significance of the Game of Baseball, and of Babe Ruth in particular, cannot be overstated when it came to trade stimulators in the 1920's and 1930's. Ruth not only built that house called Yankee Stadium, but he almost single handedly pulled baseball up out of the stinking rubble that the Black Sox scandal of 1919 left it in. Ruth then did for coin-op marketing what he had done for the Game of Baseball. An advertisement appearing in the April 19, 1930, issue of *Billboard Magazine* said it all. "Babe Ruth signed for \$80,000.00. What about you?" was stated in bold writing to motivate entrepreneurs to buy coin operated machines and make money too. Baseball's inference went on to become so pervasive in the coin machine industry that I started to go nuts collecting coin-ops with a baseball theme until I realized I had to restrict my baseball collection to really extraordinary examples or face the possibility that I would soon run out of money as I filled up warehouses. Champion Speed Tester is among the best of those extraordinary examples.



Thank you, Mike Murphy.

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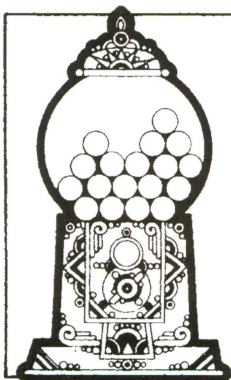
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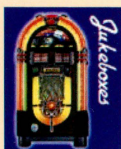
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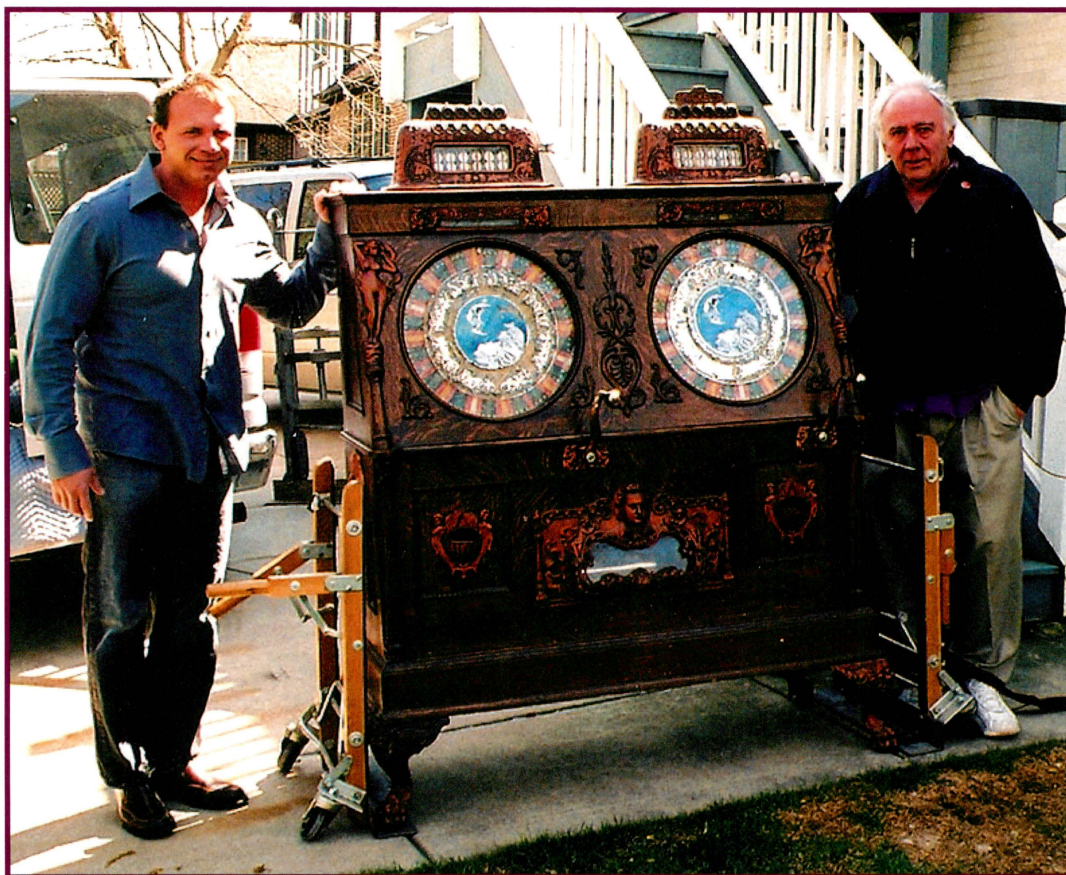


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March 9th-11th 2012
October 12th-14th 2012

**At Auction
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